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**US CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE HELPS PNG WITH DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, a U.S. Department of Defense organization, conducted a three-day workshop in Port Moresby September 20-22.

U.S. Ambassador Teddy Taylor praised the organizers for bringing much needed assistance to Papua New Guinea. "The commonsense, practical training will enable PNG authorities to save hundreds if not thousands of lives in the event of a natural disaster or disease outbreak," said the U.S. Ambassador. "The United States remains committed to doing all that we can to save lives in the Pacific. Nothing says that louder than our Pacific Partnership and Centers for Excellence training programs."

The event titled Civil-Military Coordination in Planning and Response to Health Emergencies and Disasters in Papua New Guinea: A Focus on Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Strategies included representation from the PNG Department of Health, Defence Force, National Disaster Centre, provincial health offices as well as international organizations and donors such as the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and AusAID.

The improved whole-of-government capacity to respond to health emergencies and disasters, identify opportunities for civil-military collaboration in response to health emergencies and disasters, and identify strengths and opportunities in the coordination of disease surveillance activities.

A special panel on Papua New Guinea's response to cholera outbreaks highlighted areas for additional capacity building to ensure that an effective planning and response cycle is in place to address future health emergencies.

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